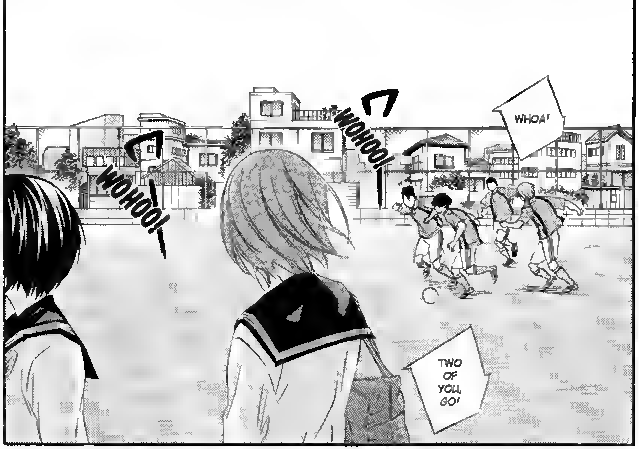
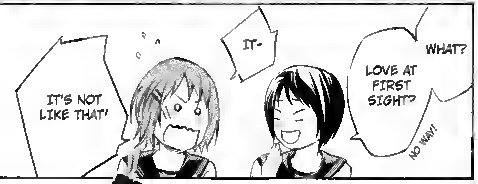

WOHOO!
WOHOO!
WHOA!
TWO OF YOU, GO!

AYAKA?

HE LOOKS SO HAPPY KICKING THAT BALL
THAT WAS...

IWAKI-KUN...
HE'S A FIRST YEAR LIKE US AND IS PRETTY FAMOUS AROUND HERE BECAUSE OF HIS SKILLS SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL.
IWAKI-KUN SURE IS GOOD.



THE KNIGHT IN THE AREA

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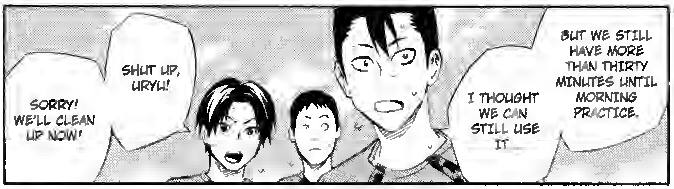
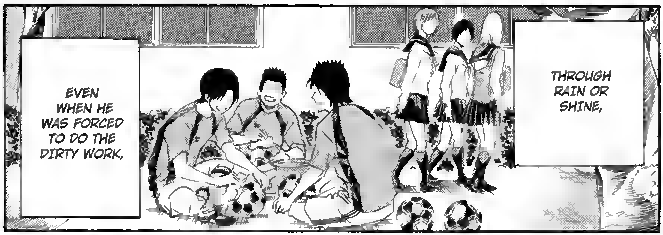
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, USING THE FIELD WITHOUT PERMISSION?!
HIMURO JUN (3RD YEAR)
ENOSHIMA HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER TEAM CAPTAIN


BUT WE STILL HAVE MORE THAN THIRTY MINUTES UNTIL MORNING PRACTICE.
I THOUGHT WE CAN STILL USE IT
SHUT UP, URYU!!
SORRY! WE'LL CLEAN UP NOW!

COME ON!
GET THE HELL OUT AND GO POLISH SOME BALLS!
?!
KICK
OW...
ARE YOU OKAY, IWAKI?

LET'S GO AYAKA...
HOW CRUEL...


EVEN WHEN HE WAS FORCED TO DO THE DIRTY WORK,
THROUGH RAIN OR SHINE,

LOOKING HAPPY ALL THE TIME.
I REALLY LIKED SEEING IWAKI-KUN
HE LOOKED SO HAPPY

TWEEET!
BUT ONE DAY, THAT INCIDENT OCCURRED...
COACH! IT SEEMS LIKE KOYAMA-SAN TWISTED HIS LEG AND CAN'T PLAY!
IWAKI, REPLACE KOYAMA AND GO IN AS A MIDFIELDER.
!
Y...YES, SIR!

THIS IS GREAT, TEPPEI!
GO AND SHOW YOUR BEST!
YEAH!
...!!
HEY, IT SEEMS LIKE IWAKI IS GOING!
CHATTER CHATTER
REALLY? HE WORE NUMBER 10 FOR ENOSHIMA JR HIGH, RIGHT?
I HEARD HIS DRIBBLING IS AMAZING
COACH KONDOU, WHO IS ALL ABOUT THE PHYSICAL STATUS, SPECIALLY ALLOWED HIM TO JOIN EVEN WHEN HE'S UNDER 170CM TALL.
ISN'T HE GOING TO MAKE HIMURO-SAN, THE OTHER MIDFIELDER, LOOK BAD?
MAYBE

WHOA!
DAMN IT, STOP HIM!
THIS IS IT! GO! TEPPEI!
BAM!!
WOW... AMAZING!!

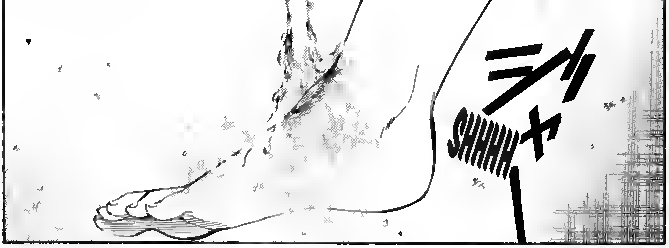
QUIT MESSIN' YOU 1ST YEAR!
WHACK!
!!?
AH!
DAMN HIM...
DASH!

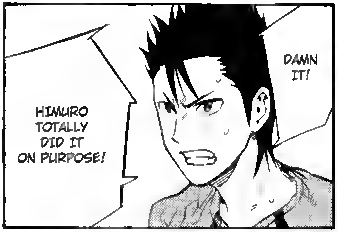
...
HEY NOW,
DON'T GO AROUND TRIPPING TO EARN YOURSELF A FOUL.
TCH
GRAB
THE BALL WENT TO IWAKI AGAIN!
SPRINT
I'LL KEEP BLOWING YOU AWAY!

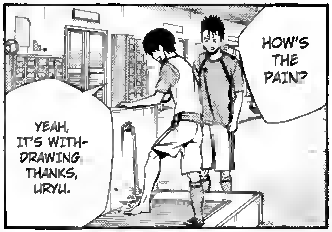
HELL YEAH!
HUH?
...

CRAP!
I CAN'T LET THIS TWERP REPLACE ME...
HE DODGED CAPTAIN HIMURO!
STOMP!
AS A MIDFIELDER!

TWEET!
LIGH
THAT JERK!
ARE YOU OKAY, TEPPEI?
SOMEWHAT...


SHHHH


DAMN IT!
HIMURO TOTALLY DID IT ON PURPOSE!


HOW'S THE PAIN?
YEAH, IT'S WITH-DRAWING. THANKS, URYU.

UM
WHO ARE YOU?

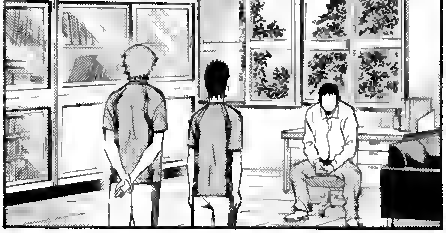
ARE YOU OKAY, IWAKI-KUN?
I GOT SOME ICE FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

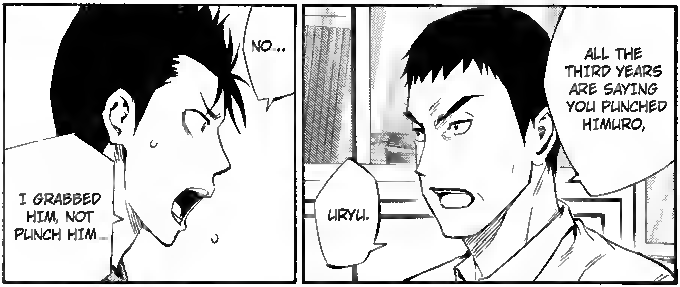
I'M MINE FROM HOMEROOM A.
THAT ROUGH PLAY WAS HORRIBLE

HEY NOW, CALLING THAT A ROUGH PLAY IS RATHER MEAN
HIMURO-SAN
OH?
LOOKS PRETTY DAMN RED. YOU, OKAY?
UM...
YES...
OH, YOU'RE FINE.
THAT'S GREAT.

THEN GO DO A HUNDRED 50 METER LAPS
HUH?
IT'S YOUR PUNISHMENT FOR CHATTING WITH A GIRL DURING PRACTICE
TOO EASY!
OR TOO NICE!
HEY, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE
IF HE RAN WITH A WOUND LIKE THIS SOMETHING TERRIBLE CAN HAPPEN
THE OUTSIDER CAN KEEP HER MOUTH SHUT
HEY, LET GO!
GRAB!

UGH!
!!
COME ON, GET GOING SHORTY!
HEY, YOU!
GRAB!
WHA?!
WHOA, IT'S A BRAWL!
QUIT IT, URYU!
AHH!!


STUDENT DISCIPLINARY ROOM
生徒指導室


NO..
I GRABBED HIM, NOT PUNCH HIM..
ALL THE THIRD YEARS ARE SAYING YOU PUNCHED HIMURO,
URYU.

NOW, LEAVE.
WE DON'T NEED ANYONE IN OUR SOCCER CLUB THAT USES VIOLENCE.

!?

DON'T EVER SHOW YOURSELF IN THE SOCCER CLUB.
WHA?!
I WILL DISMISS YOU FROM THE CLUB

RYU DID THIS...
FOR ME.
P-
PLEASE WAIT.
CREEK
FOR YOU?
THEN DO YOU WANT TO QUIT, TOO?
...
UGH...
!

THEN YES.
I WILL QUIT THE SOCCER CLUB AS WELL.
WHA?!
...WHAT?

OH MAN, IWAKI IS SO DUMB FOR FOLLOWING URYU AND LEAVING THE CLUB.

WELL, HE HAD NO FUTURE WITH A WEAK BODY STRUCTURE LIKE THAT.
I MEAN, HE HAD TO LEAVE THE GAME FROM INJURIES WITH A MILD HIT!

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING NOW?
THEY'RE ALONE AT THE BEACH KICKING A BALL AROUND
SO LONELY!
MAYBE THEY'RE CRYING TOWARD THE SEA RIGHT NOW.
HAHAHA

GLARE
OH? YOU'RE THAT GIRL FROM LAST TIME.
HOW'S IWAKI-KUN DOING-?
THEY'RE SUCH JERKS...
SCARY. SHE GLARED AT ME!
HAHAHA

I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO NOW...

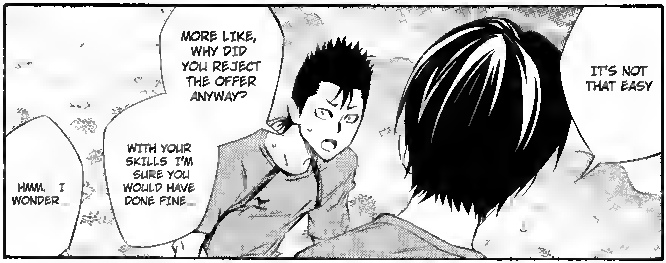
I'M NOT DONE YET!
SLIDE
WHOA!
TAKE THIS!
JUMP
ジャンプ
TWUU JUMP
OKAY, WITH THIS
WHOA!

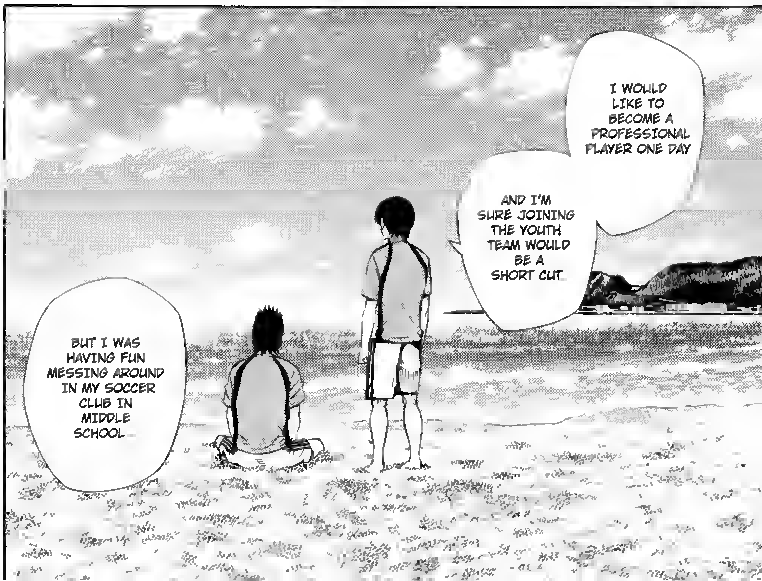
KICK
IT'S MY THIRD POINT?!
THUMP

GLARE
NO WAY!
HAHA
IT'S NORMAL, ISN'T IT?
AW DARN, YOU'RE REALLY GOOD
THUD
SPLASH

I DON'T THINK YOU INVOLVED ME AT ALL.
I JUST DID IT SINCE I FELT LIKE IT.
WE QUIT THE SOCCER CLUB ON IMPULSE, BUT WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW...
SORRY FOR INVOLVING YOU WITH MY PROBLEMS TOO...

MAYBE IF YOU ASK TO JOIN NOW, THEY'LL STILL LET YOU IN
OH! YOU WERE BEING SCOUTED BY THE YOUTH TEAM IN YOKOHAMA, RIGHT?
BUT SOMEONE LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE...

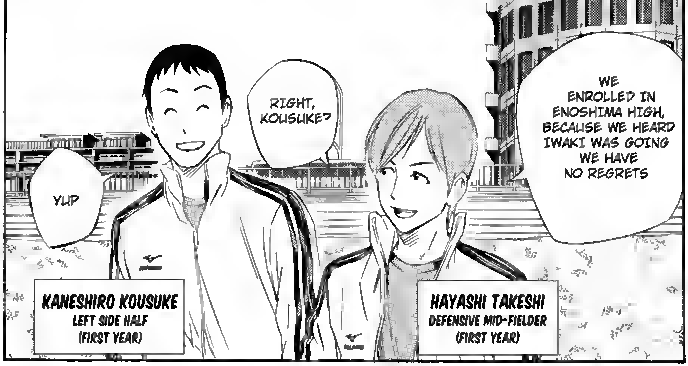

HMM... I WONDER...
WITH YOUR SKILLS I'M SURE YOU WOULD HAVE DONE FINE...
MORE LIKE, WHY DID YOU REJECT THE OFFER ANYWAY?
IT'S NOT THAT EASY

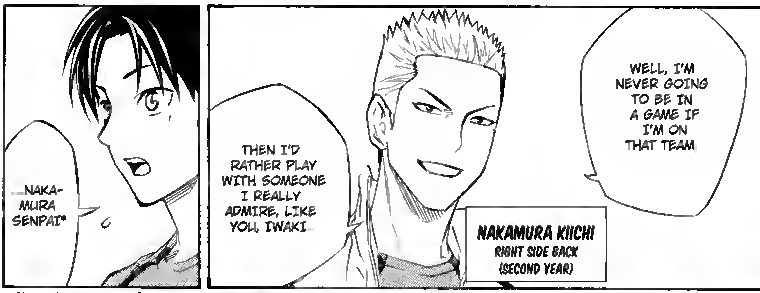

BUT I WAS HAVING FUN MESSING AROUND IN MY SOCCER CLUB IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...
AND I'M SURE JOINING THE YOUTH TEAM WOULD BE A SHORT CUT...
I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL PLAYER ONE DAY

I WANTED TO PLAY SOCCER WITH YOU, URYU.
ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
TEPPEI...
ALL RIGHT, BACK TO THE GAME!
DASH!
HEY!
NOT FAIR!
FOURTH POINT!!
KICK

!!
BAM
TANIMURA-SAN!
SLIDE
I KNEW YOU GUYS WOULD BE HERE
TANIMURA YUUKI
GOAL KEEPER
(THIRD YEAR)
STEP
!
WHY ARE ALL OF YOU GUYS HERE?

HUH?
BUT IT'S STILL PRACTICE TIME IN THE SOCCER CLUB...
SLIP
わっ
WHY ARE YOU ASKING "WHY?"
WE'RE HERE TO PLAY SOCCER!
YUI SHOSUKE
CENTER BACK
(1ST YEAR)
THE FIVE OF US
JUST HANDED IN OUR PAPERS TO QUIT!
....!!



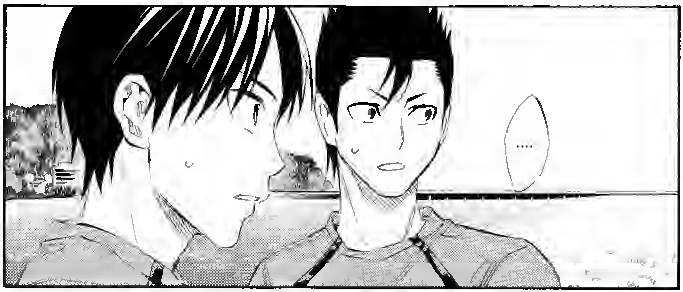

WELL, I'M NEVER GOING TO BE IN A GAME IF I'M ON THAT TEAM
THEN I'D RATHER PLAY WITH SOMEONE I REALLY ADMIRE, LIKE YOU, IWAKI
NAKAMURA KIICHI
RIGHT SIDE BACK
(SECOND YEAR)
...NAKAMURA SENPAI*

(*UPPERCLASSMEN)

YEAH!
LET'S MAKE A SOCCER GROUP!
A GROUP?
.....
I HEARD ABOUT THIS IN THE HALLWAY AND WONDERED IF I CAN HELP YOU GUYS IN SOME WAY...
YOU ARE MORE THAN WELCOME!
I'M PART OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL, SO I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF READING CLUB RULES AND...
PLEASE LOOK AT THIS PART...
.....?
WHEN THERE IS A CLUB AND A GROUP FOR THE SAME SPORT, THE ONE TO REPRESENT THE SCHOOL AT OFFICIAL TOURNAMENTS WILL BE DECIDED UPON DISCUSSIONS.
OR....

WITH A GAME BETWEEN THE TWO TEAMS.
.....
SERIOUSLY?

WHEN I WAS A FIRST YEAR, THERE WAS A GROUP MADE BY STREET BASKETBALL MEMBERS,
AND THEY HAD A GAME AGAINST THE BASKETBALL CLUB TO ATTEND THE OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT!
THEY LOST THAT TIME AND IT DIDN'T WORK OUT FOR THEM.

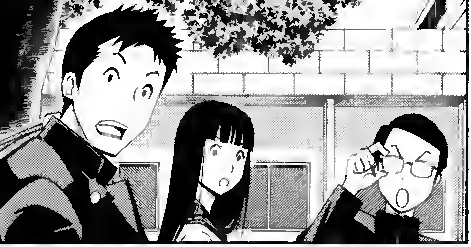

....

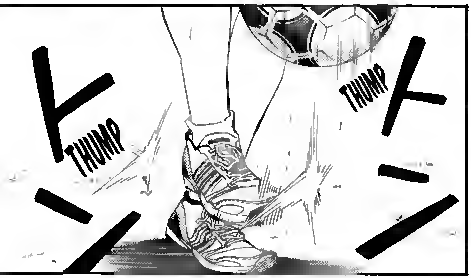
YOU GUYS...

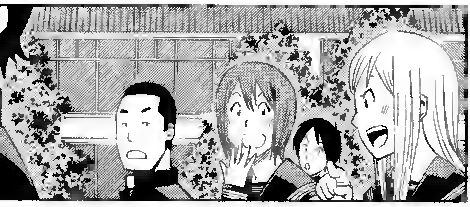
I'M SO PSYCHED!
SO THAT MEANS WE CAN POSSIBLY SHOW THAT PUNK HIMURO WHAT WE CAN DO!

TO THINK THERE'S A CHANCE FOR US TO PLAY SOCCER AGAIN...
DAMN IT, THIS IS GREAT...
THIS IS AWESOME, URYU!!
GRAB
YEAH!
WE HAVE SEVEN PEOPLE NOW!
LET'S DO OUR BEST TO GET ELEVEN!
....

WITH OFFICIAL TOURNAMENTS ON THE LINE,
WE WILL DARE THE SOCCER CLUB TO A CHALLENGE !!
YEAH!







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ADAPTATION BY MIKA ANAMI

THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY
UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

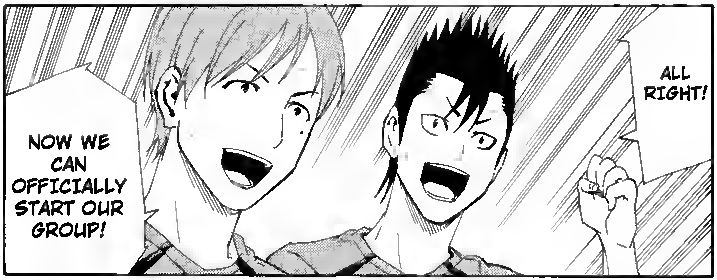
THUMP
WE ARE ENO-HIGH'S BRAND NEW SOCCER GROUP, ENOSHIMA FC.
WE PLAN ON MAKING A FUN AND STRONG SOCCER TEAM!
WE ARE LOOKING FOR MANAGERS AS WELL AS MEMBERS!
FEEL FREE TO DROP BY IF YOU'RE INTERESTED!
WE ARE LOOKING FOR MEMBERS EVERY DAY IN FRONT OF THE FIRST CLUB ROOM BEFORE AND AFTER CLASS.

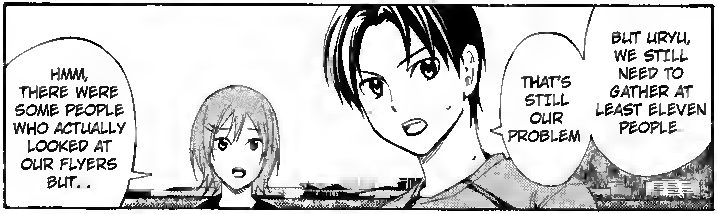
WOW
WOW
HE'S REALLY GOOD!
AMAZING!!

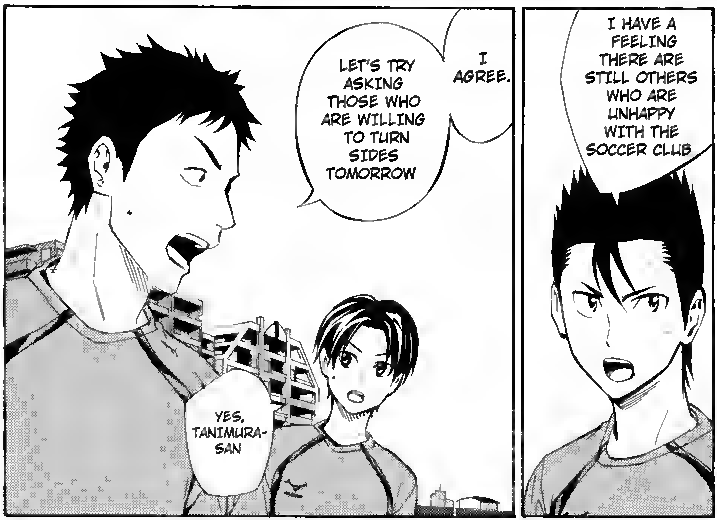
PRACTICE SHOULDN'T BE THAT TOUGH LIKE A CLUB, SO WHY NOT.
OH, A SOCCER GROUP.
LOOKS FUN!
HIMURO, YOU'RE JUST GOING TO STAND HERE AND WATCH THIS?
YEAH, WE'LL WAIT!
I'LL CONSIDER IT!
OH? PLAN ON JOINING?
THOSE SCUM...
THEY WON'T PULL IT OFF.
SIDELINE, MOVE UP!
KIICHI-SAN.
OKAY!
DASH
THUMP
HAYASHI TAKESHI
DEFENSIVE MIDFIELDER
(FIRST YEAR)

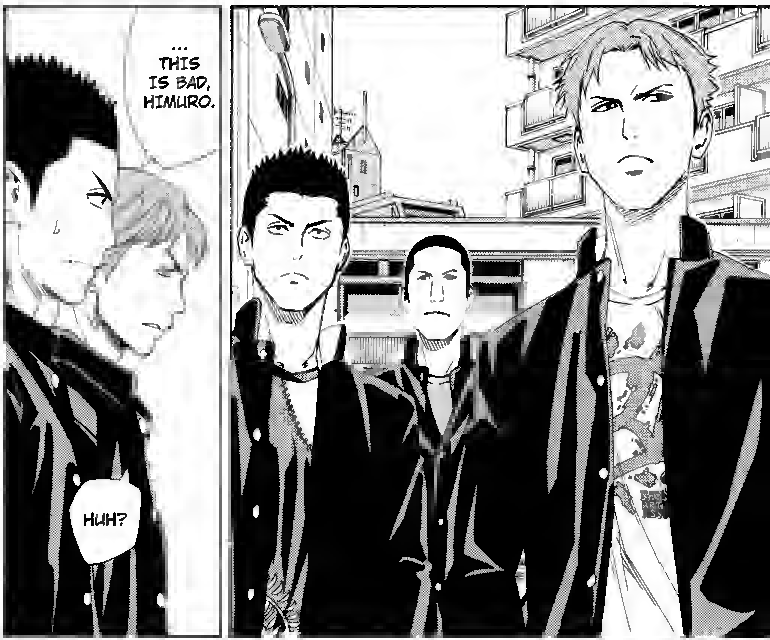
KICK
GO!
NAKAMURA KIICHI
RIGHT FULLBACK
(SECOND YEAR)
ALL RIGHT! INITIAL POINT!
WHACK
TANIMURA YUUKI
GOALKEEPER
(THIRD YEAR)
NICE BLOCK, TANIMURA-SAN!
WHOA, SERIOUSLY?!

EVERYONE JUST DIDN'T FIT DIRECTOR KONDOU'S IDEAL TEAM IMAGE, BUT THEY ALL HAD SKILL.
YEAH.
EVERYONE IS GREAT!
THIS IS LOOKING GOOD, IWAKI!
YEAH!
HEY GUYS, LET'S TAKE A BREAK!
REALLY, MINE-SAN?!
MITA-SENSEI, AGREED TO BE OUR ADVISER!
HEY, LISTEN UP. THE ENGLISH TEACHER,


ALL RIGHT!
NOW WE CAN OFFICIALLY START OUR GROUP!


BUT URYU, WE STILL NEED TO GATHER AT LEAST ELEVEN PEOPLE
THAT'S STILL OUR PROBLEM
HMM, THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY LOOKED AT OUR FLYERS BUT..


I HAVE A FEELING THERE ARE STILL OTHERS WHO ARE UNHAPPY WITH THE SOCCER CLUB
I AGREE.
LET'S TRY ASKING THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO TURN SIDES TOMORROW
YES, TANIMURA-SAN


...
THIS IS BAD, HIMURO.
HUH?

ONCE THEY GET ENOUGH MEMBERS, YOU KNOW THEY WILL ASK FOR A "MATCH THAT DECIDES WHO GOES TO THE TOURNAMENTS."
SO WHAT?

GRAB
!!

WELL, WHAT IF WE LOSE AND...

...
THERE ARE NO WHAT IFS...

ARE YOU SAYING I'M GOING TO LOSE TO THAT LITTLE PUNK?
N-NO. I'M SAYING WHAT IF.

NEXT TIME HE GOES AGAINST ME,
I'LL SERIOUSLY BREAK HIM.
CHIL
...

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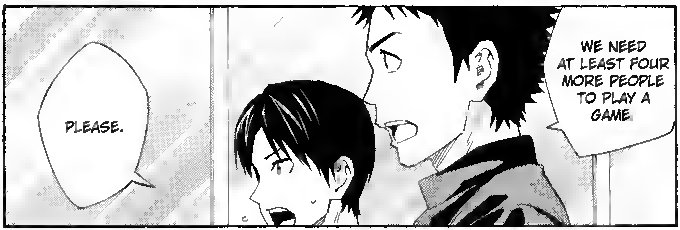
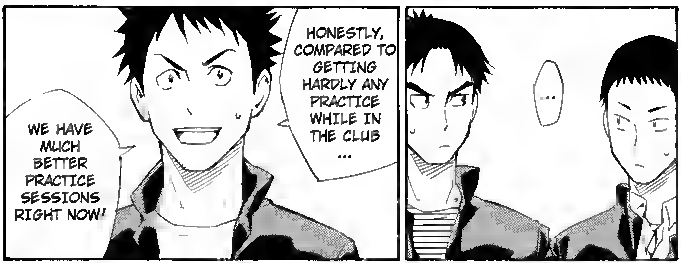


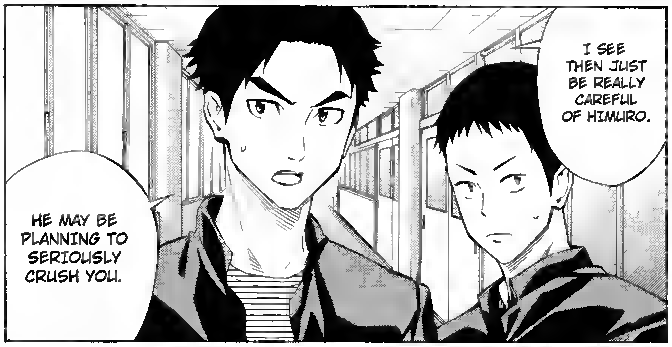


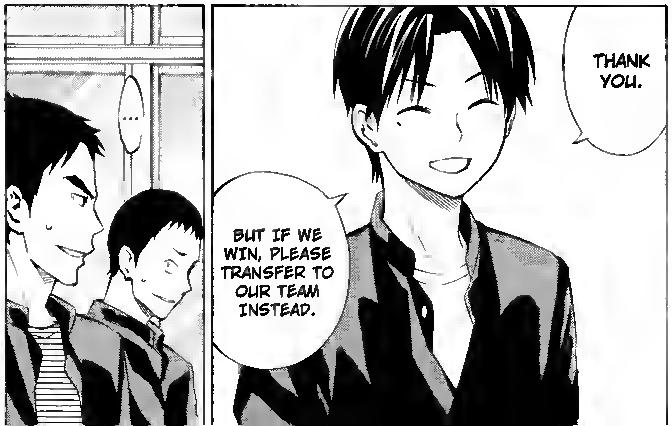
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO THE PRACTICES AT THE BEACH ONCE?
THEN MAYBE...
SORRY, IWAKI. WE CAN'T JUST QUIT THE CLUB.
ME TOO, SORRY.
IF HIMURO SNAPS, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'D DO.

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN BEAT US IN A GAME AND GO TO THE TOURNAMENTS?
IT MAY BE HARD, BUT WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL WE TRY

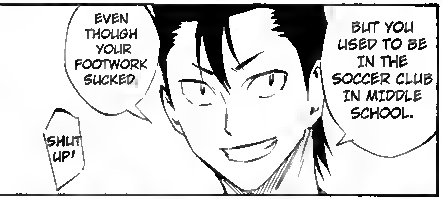
BOW
I UNDERSTAND SORRY FOR ASKING TOO MUCH
IT'S OKAY

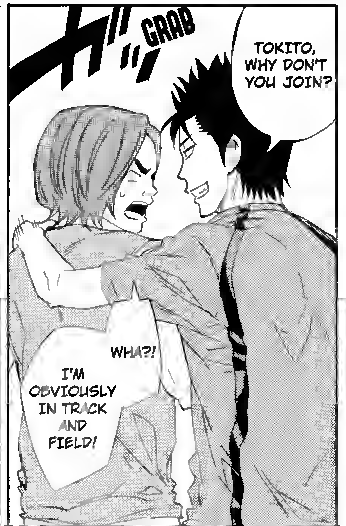
HEY, IWAKI
HM?

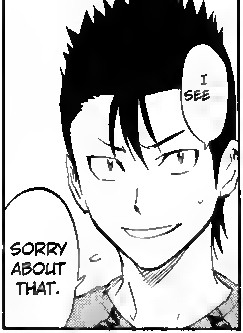

I SEE THEN JUST BE REALLY CAREFUL OF HIMURO.
HE MAY BE PLANNING TO SERIOUSLY CRUSH YOU.


...
THANK YOU.
BUT IF WE WIN, PLEASE TRANSFER TO OUR TEAM INSTEAD.

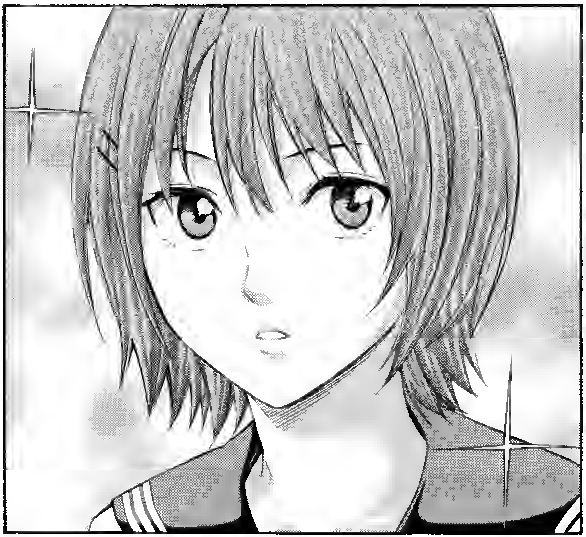
SCOUTING MEMBERS FOR ENOSHIMA FC

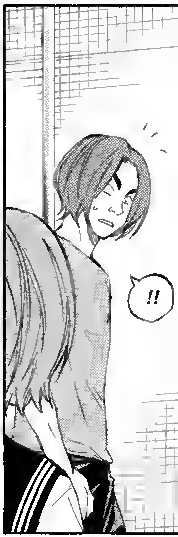





I SEE
SORRY ABOUT THAT.

ANYWAY, I JUST JOINED TRACKS SO IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
WE NEED TO START RUNNING NOW SO, I'M GOING!

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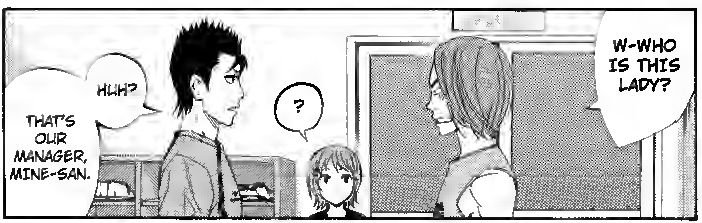
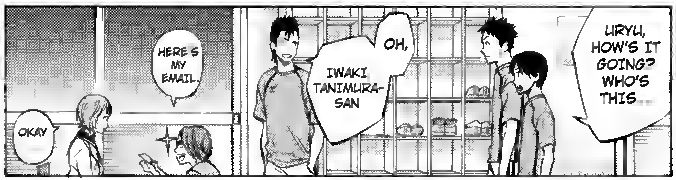
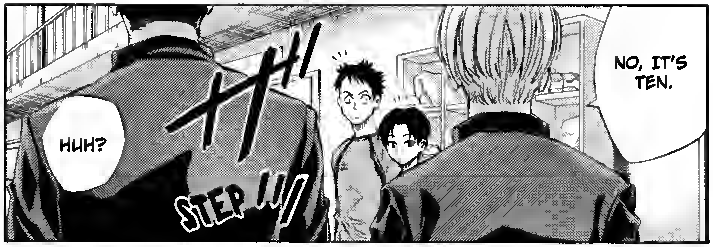

W-WHO IS THIS LADY?
?
HUH?
THAT'S OUR MANAGER, MINE-SAN.

SLIDE
I'M TOKITO MAMORU, FIRST YEAR. I'LL GLADLY JOIN!
REALLY?! THANK YOU!!
SERI-OUSLY?


URYU, HOW'S IT GOING? WHO'S THIS...
OH, IWAKI TANIMURA-SAN
HERE'S MY EMAIL.
OKAY

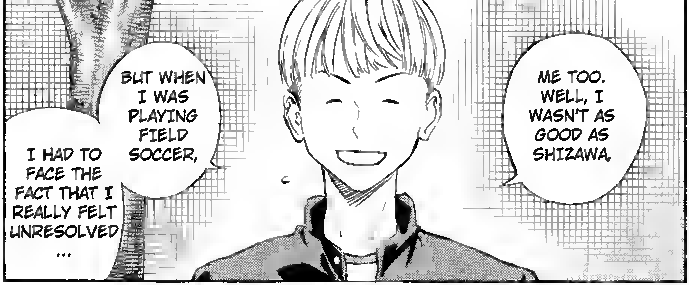
WE GOT A NEW MEMBER!
I'M TOKITO MAMORU, NICE TO MEET YOU!
CRAP
THAT'S GREAT, URYU!
THAT MAKES EIGHT PEOPLE!

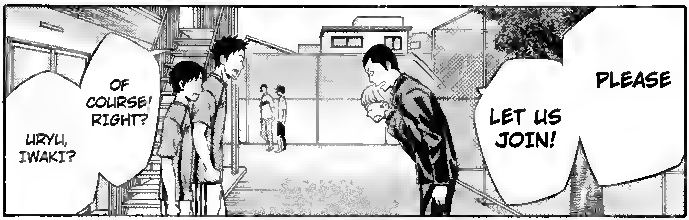

NO, IT'S TEN.
HUH?
STEP

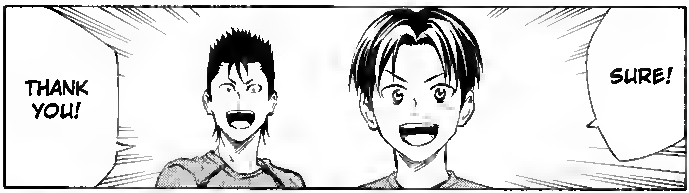
EVER SINCE WE QUIT THE CLUB LAST WINTER,
IT WAS AWKWARD, SO WE KEPT AVOIDING MEMBERS OF THE SOCCER CLUB.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, TANIMURA-SAN.
SHIMIZU KENTA
LEFT WING BACK
(SECOND YEAR)
SHIZAWA HIROKI
RIGHT MIDFIELD
(SECOND YEAR)

SHIZAWA SHIMIZU...

WE WERE SERIOUSLY MIFFED AT HIMURO-SAN, SO WE QUIT, BUT WE CONTINUED PLAYING IN OUR LOCAL TEAM
IT'S NOT LIKE WE QUIT BECAUSE WE DIDN'T LIKE SOCCER
YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO JOIN US...?

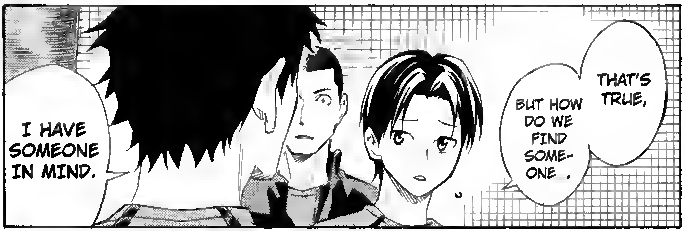

I HAD TO FACE THE FACT THAT I REALLY FELT UNRESOLVED ...
BUT WHEN I WAS PLAYING FIELD SOCCER,
ME TOO. WELL, I WASN'T AS GOOD AS SHIZAWA.


URYU, IWAKI?
OF COURSE! RIGHT?
PLEASE LET US JOIN!


THANK YOU!
SURE!

IWAKI.
ABOUT THE LAST PERSON...
JUST ONE MORE UNTIL ELEVEN!
MAYBE WE CAN HAVE A MATCH!

FOR US TO WIN, WE REALLY NEED AT LEAST ONE STRONG DEFENDER.
EVEN IF YOU GUYS SCORED, IT'S POINTLESS IF WE LOST MORE POINTS.


THAT'S TRUE,
BUT HOW DO WE FIND SOME-ONE .
I HAVE SOMEONE IN MIND.

NO...

HUH?
IT'S NOT SOMEONE FROM THE SOCCER CLUB?

IT'S JUST...
HE'S A LITTLE DIFFICULT...

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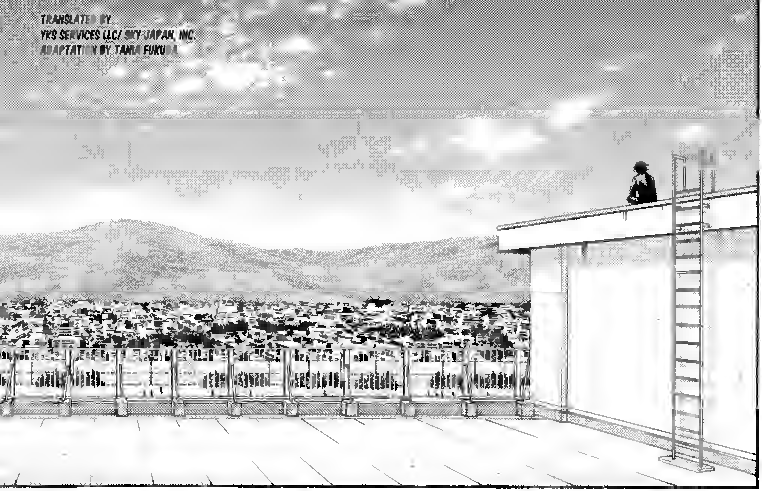
ADAPTATION BY TAMA FUKUDA



THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

THIS PERSON WAS PART OF YOKOHAMA LIBERTA, THE YOUTH TEAM,
KANAMORI TAKUMA-SAN.
KANAMORI TAKUMA
FORMER CENTER BACK (THIRD YEAR)
THE KNIGHT IN THE AREA

HEY, KANAMORI. CAN I HAVE A MOMENT?
I WANT TO HAVE A TALK WITH YOU.
TURN
SLAM
THUMP
AHH!!
!!

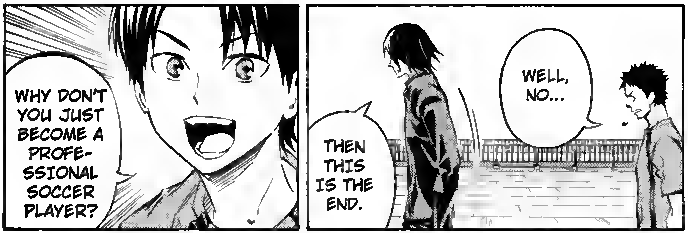
I WANTED TO ASK...
I'M NOT GOING TO PLAY SOCCER.
STEP

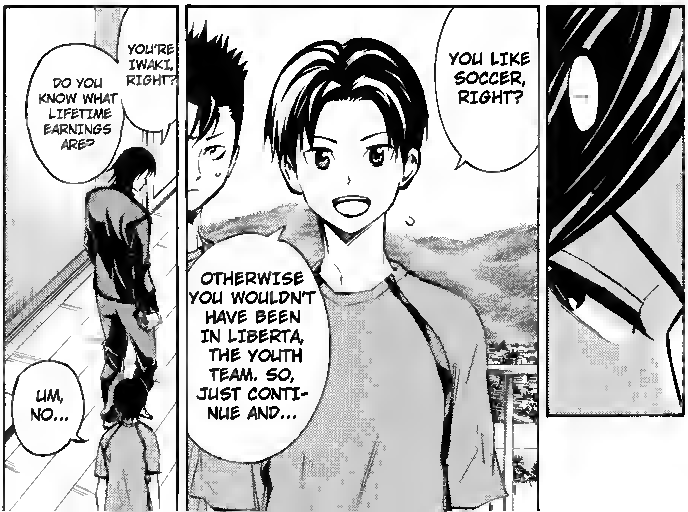
I HEARD THE RUMORS. YOU QUIT THE SOCCER CLUB AND FORMED A CIRCLE, RIGHT?
OH .. NO...

I DON'T PLAN ON JOINING ANY CLUBS. I TOLD YOU THAT BEFORE.
IF WE WIN, WE CAN REPRESENT ENOSHIMA HIGH IN THE REGULAR SEASON SO...
WE'RE GATHERING MEMBERS TO PLAY A MATCH AGAINST THE SOCCER CLUB.

JUST THIS ONE TIME...
BUT PLEASE
I'M PRETTY BUSY RIGHT NOW STUDYING FOR EXAMS.

THEN TANIMURA, CAN YOU GUARANTEE ME SOMETHING?
IF I FAIL MY EXAMS BECAUSE I PLAYED SOCCER, WILL YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY?

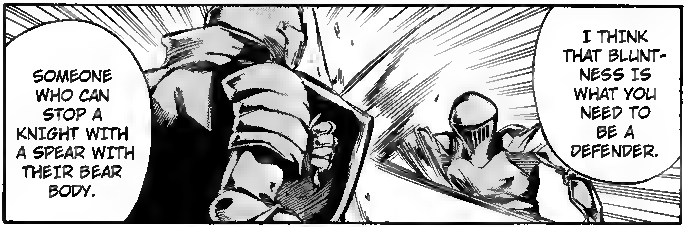

WHY DON'T YOU JUST BECOME A PROFESSIONAL SOCCER PLAYER?
THEN THIS IS THE END.
WELL, NO...

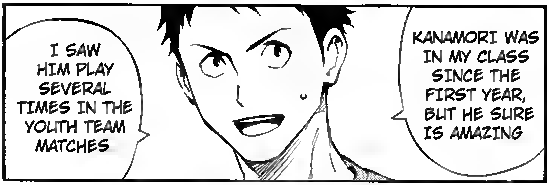

YOU'RE IWAKI, RIGHT?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT LIFETIME EARNINGS ARE?
UM, NO...
YOU LIKE SOCCER, RIGHT?
OTHERWISE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN IN LIBERTA, THE YOUTH TEAM. SO, JUST CONTINUE AND...

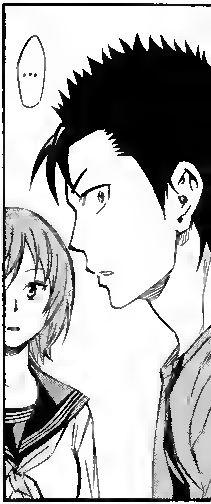
IT'S THE AMOUNT OF MONEY A PERSON CAN EARN IN THEIR LIFESPAN.
IT'S DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO BECOME A PRO AND OUT OF THEM, HOW MANY CAN EARN THREE HUNDRED MILLION?
THERE ARE PLENTY OF SALARY MEN WHO CAN EARN THREE HUNDRED MILLION AT A TOP COMPANY.
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, YOU CAN SEE WHAT IS THE CORRECT ANSWER.
BUT, DREAMS ARE MEANT TO BE...
MY DREAM IS TO GRADUATE FROM A GOOD COLLEGE AND WORK AT A TOP COMPANY.
WHEN I GET INTO COLLEGE, I WILL JOIN THE SOCCER TEAM ONLY BECAUSE ATHLETIC BUSINESSES ARE DOING REALLY WELL.
...
SLAM
HE PISSES ME OFF.
I'D RATHER NOT HAVE SOMEONE LIKE HIM.
SQUEAK
THAT'S ALL.
BUT HE'S AMAZING.
THERE'S NO MISTAKE ABOUT THAT.

THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING. HIS BLUNT ATTITUDE IS WHAT ACTUALLY AMAZED ME.
!

I THOUGHT IT WAS AMAZING HOW HE JUMPED DOWN FROM THAT HEIGHT LIKE A CAT BUT...
I DON'T LIKE HIM!

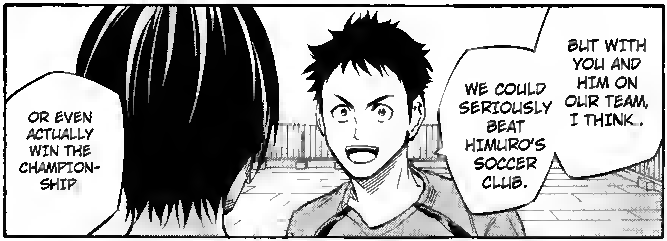

I THINK THAT BLUNTNESS IS WHAT YOU NEED TO BE A DEFENDER.
SOMEONE WHO CAN STOP A KNIGHT WITH A SPEAR WITH THEIR BEAR BODY.

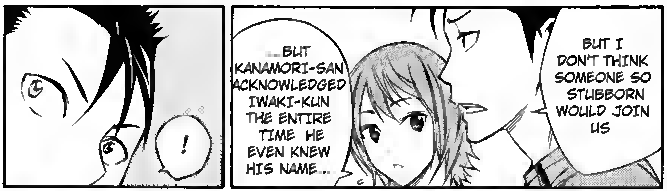

KANAMORI WAS IN MY CLASS SINCE THE FIRST YEAR, BUT HE SURE IS AMAZING
I SAW HIM PLAY SEVERAL TIMES IN THE YOUTH TEAM MATCHES


...

HE'S AGILE LIKE A LION DESPITE HIS STRUCTURE.
IT WAS A HEATED PLAY STYLE THAT BROUGHT SWEAT TO MY HANDS.

I THOUGHT HE WOULD MAKE IT TO THE TOP AND GO PRO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.
HE QUICKLY QUIT THE YOUTH TEAM AFTER THE SECOND YEAR AND BEGAN STUDYING.
HE WAS ALWAYS STRANGE, BUT MAYBE SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM.
..


BUT WITH YOU AND HIM ON OUR TEAM, I THINK..
WE COULD SERIOUSLY BEAT HIMURO'S SOCCER CLUB.
OR EVEN ACTUALLY WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP


BUT I DON'T THINK SOMEONE SO STUBBORN WOULD JOIN US
...BUT KANAMORI-SAN ACKNOWLEDGED IWAKI-KUN THE ENTIRE TIME HE EVEN KNEW HIS NAME...
!

I THINK HE WAS WATCHING IWAKI-KUN PLAY.
I'M NOT SURE WHY HE QUIT, BUT I THINK HE WANTS TO PLAY SOCCER STILL.

PERHAPS HE HE IS USING THE WHOLE LIFETIME EARNINGS THING.
TO REMIND HIMSELF TO HOLD BACK HIS FEELINGS...
...

STEP
...
SO TALL..
AMAZING...
FWSH!
THUMP

THE KNIGHT IN THE AREA

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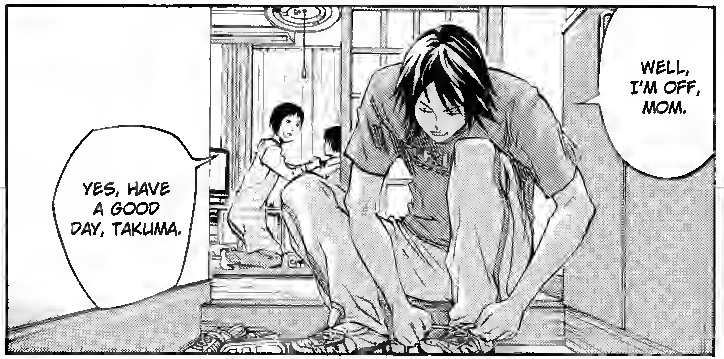
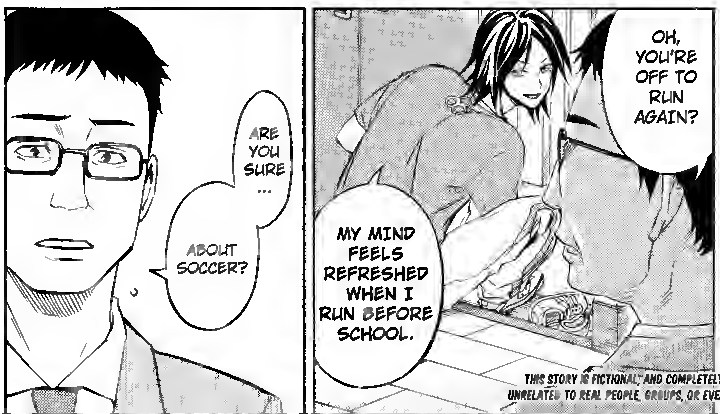
ADAPTATION BY TANIA FUKUDA





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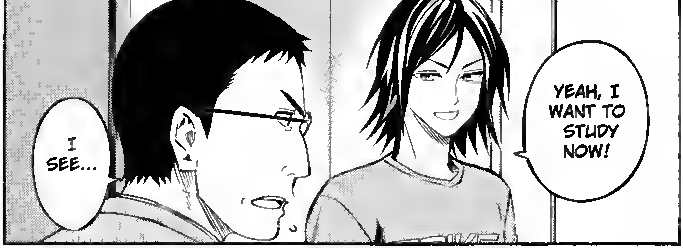
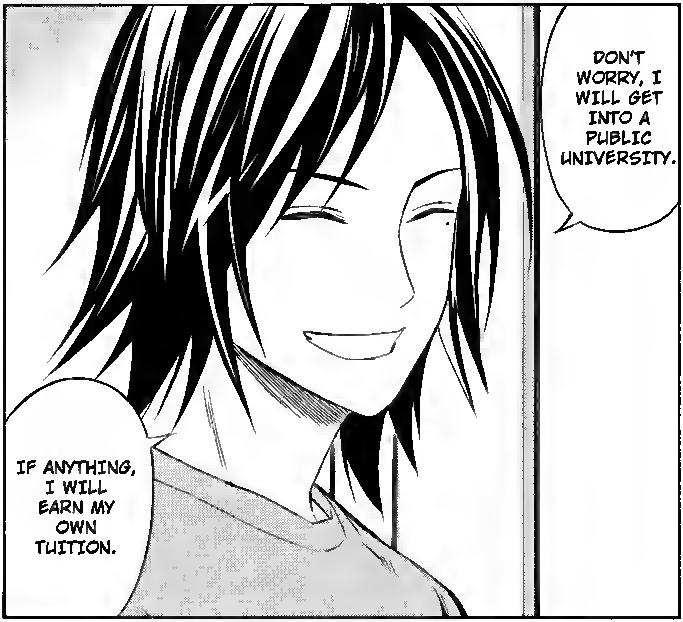

I SEE...
YEAH, I WANT TO STUDY NOW!


IF ANYTHING, I WILL EARN MY OWN TUITION.
DON'T WORRY, I WILL GET INTO A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY.

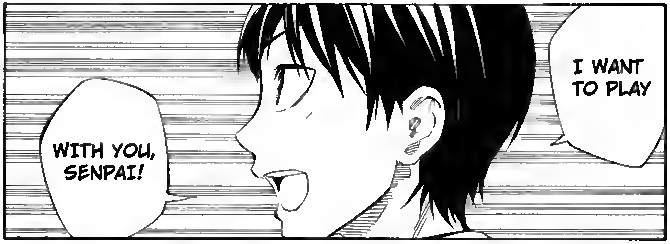
SEE YOU LATER!
HA HA!
CRACK
FOOL, I CAN TAKE CARE OF YOUR TUITION, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

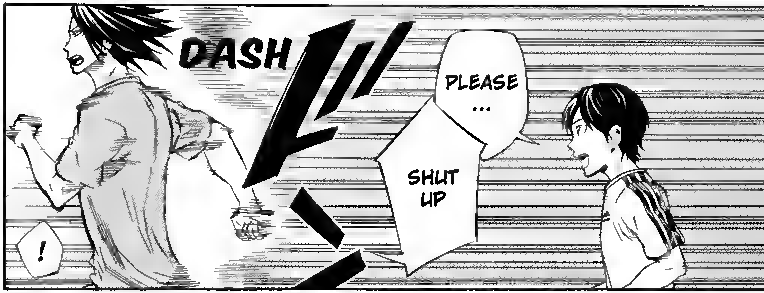
(*UPPPER CLASSMEN)

YOU HAVE BEEN RUN-NING EVERY MORNING SINCE YOUR DAYS AT THE YOUTH TEAM
I HEARD IT FROM TANIMURA-SAN AND I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU STILL DO.
STRETCH
ARE YOU A STALKER?
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU ASK
STRETCH

STRETCH
THAT'S WHY I CONTINUE IT
SIMPLE EXERCISE HELPS YOUR BRAIN FUNCTION BETTER, WHICH IS MORE EFFECTIVE FOR MY STUDIES

RUN
RUN
...
LET'S PLAY SOCCER TOGETHER.


I WANT TO PLAY
WITH YOU, SENPAI!


DASH
PLEASE ...
SHUT UP
!

...
I'M SURE NATIONALS WON'T JUST BE A DREAM!
HOLD UP! IT WOULD BE SUCH AN AWESOME EXPERIENCE!

DASH
I WON'T LOSE!
...
RUN
RUN
RUN
!!?

TWITCH
YOU...
GRIN
...
ARE SO ANNOYING!
!
WHOA!
THUMP
LEAP

DASH
HAHA
W...
WOW...
TAKE THAT!
DARN IT!!
I WILL BE WAITING!!

I WANT TO PLAY SOCCER!
I WANT TO PLAY SOCCER WITH YOU!
....

THE KNIGHT IN THE AREA

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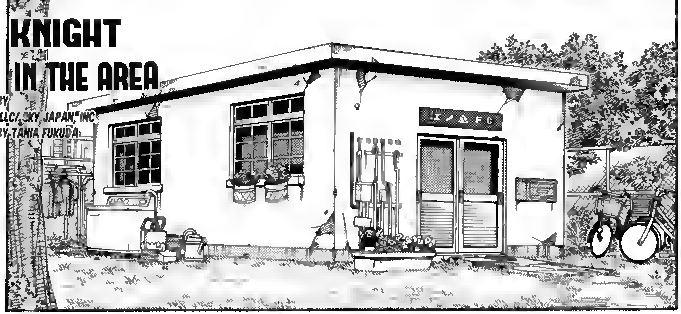
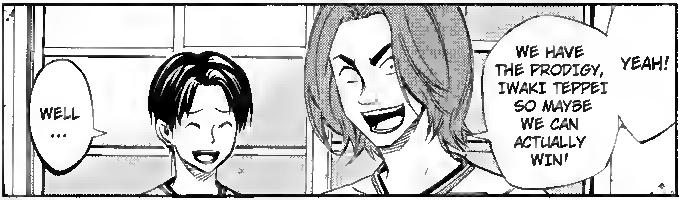
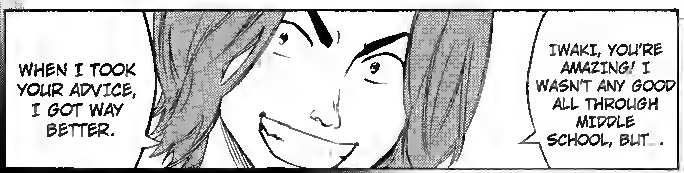
ADAPTATION BY TANIA FUKUDA



THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

OOTAKI JOINED US TOO SO NOW WE HAVE ELEVEN PEOPLE!
WE MANAGED TO MAKE IT BARELY.
OOTAKI SHINJI
CENTER BACK
(FIRST YEAR)


WELL ...
WE HAVE THE PRODIGY, IWAKI TEPPEI SO MAYBE WE CAN ACTUALLY WIN!
YEAH!

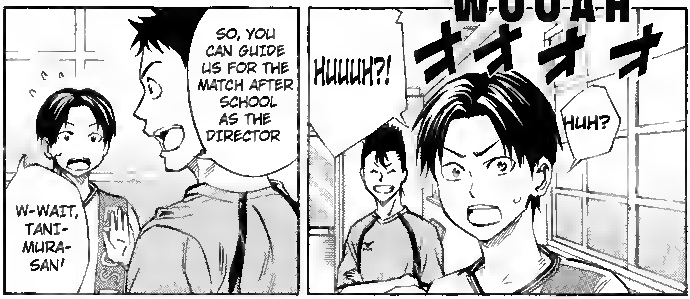

WHEN I TOOK YOUR ADVICE, I GOT WAY BETTER.
IWAKI, YOU'RE AMAZING! I WASN'T ANY GOOD ALL THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL, BUT...

YEAH, DON'T TRY TO CONTROL THE BALL WITH YOUR FEET.
JUST PUSH FORWARD AND CHARGE THROUGH YOUR ENEMIES AND GO AFTER THE BALL...

YEAH, TOKITO HAS REALLY IMPROVED IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS.
TEPPEI, WHAT DID YOU TEACH HIM?
NO, URYU. TOKITO WAS FAST TO BEGIN WITH...

KICK
LIKE THIS?
WHOA!
WOW!
Y-YEAH!
I THINK THAT WORKS. DIRECTOR IWAKI.
TRUE.
THAT'S RIGHT. HE'S SO COMPETENT HE'S LIKE A DIRECTOR
ENOSHI
2

IF WE WIN WE'LL ATTEND OFFICIAL MATCHES BUT OUR TEACHER IN CHARGE BARELY KNOWS SOCCER.
ACTUALLY, NAKAMURA. THAT MAY WORK.
EVEN IF I'M THE CAPTAIN, I WANT TO APPOINT YOU AS THE DIRECTOR TO LEAD THE TEAM, IWAKI.

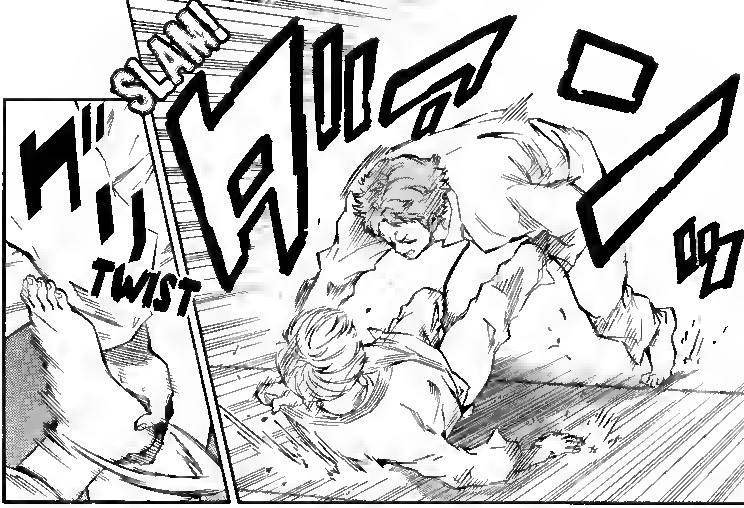

W-WOOAH
オオオオ
HUHUUH?!
HUH?
SO, YOU CAN GUIDE US FOR THE MATCH AFTER SCHOOL AS THE DIRECTOR
W-WAIT, TANI-MURA-SAN!

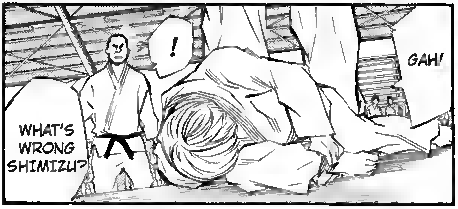
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!
ONLY YOU CAN DO IT!
LET'S WIN THIS, DIRECTOR IWAKI!

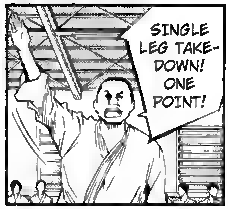
UMM, THEN LET'S REVIEW OUR TACTICS FROM THE PAST WEEK OF PRACTICES
TO GO AGAINST THE SOCCER TEAM AND..
CRACK
OH, SHIMIZU-SAN. YOU'RE LATE.
OUR UNIFORMS MADE IT ON TIM..

AN INJURY?! DON'T TELL ME YOU BROKE IT...
WHA- WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR LEG?!
...
WHAT HAPPENED, SHIMIZU? YOU WERE FINE AT MORNING PRACTICE
ACTUALLY ...
NO, JUST A SPRAIN. IT'S NOT BROKEN.
SECOND AND THIRD YEAR STUDENTS WHO SELECTED JUDO IN GYM CLASS HAD A PRACTICE MATCH.
!
YES!
NEXT!

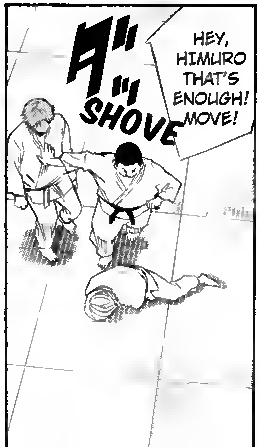
BEGIN!
...HIMURO-SAN.
HEY, SHIMIZU. LONG TIME NO SEE.
HUH?
SO, I HEARD YOU JOINED THE SOCCER CIRCLE?
GRAB
!?
SHOVE
RAAAWRRR!!


SLAM!
TWIST


!
GAH!
WHAT'S WRONG SHIMIZU?


SINGLE LEG TAKE-DOWN! ONE POINT!

CAN YOU STAND, SHI-MIZU?
HEY, KANAMORI.


SHOVE
HEY, HIMURO THAT'S ENOUGH! MOVE!

IF YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THAT PUNK IWAKI,
YOU'LL BECOME LIKE THAT TOO.
...

I WAS TAKEN TO THE INFIRMARY AND THE DOCTOR SAID
THAT THE SPRAIN WILL TAKE THREE WEEKS TO HEAL...
DAMN THAT HIMURO ...

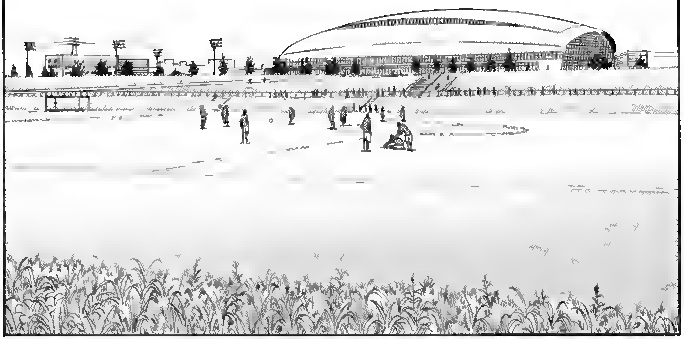
!
D... DAMN HIM..

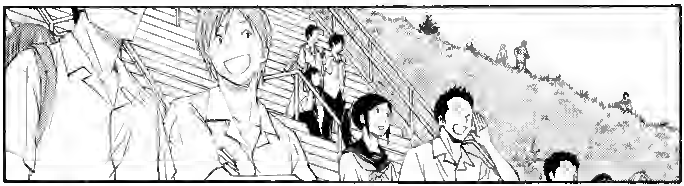
GRAB
!
THAT JERK!!
I'M GONNA GO PUNCH HIM NOW AND...

THIS IS ABSOLUTELY ...
UNFOR-GIVABLE.
SHIVER
T-TEPPEI ...

THE KNIGHT IN THE AREA

TRANSLATED BY
YK'S SERVICES LLC/ SKY JAPAN INC
ADAPTATION BY TANIA FUKUDA





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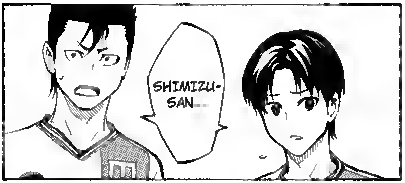
STEP
ENOSIMA.FC
ENOSIMA.FC
ENOSIMA.FC
THANK YOU FOR WAITING!

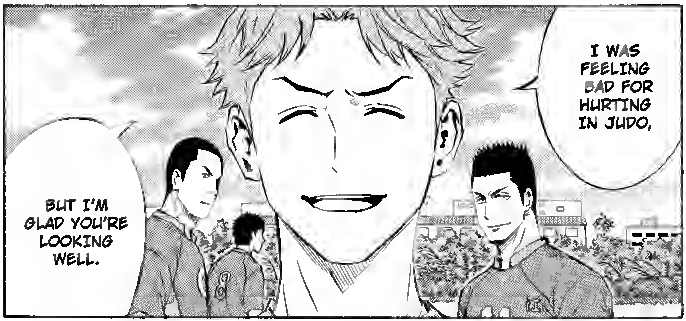
...

YES.
WE'RE GOING WITH JUST TEN...
....
TEN MEM-BERS
SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE MISSING ONE?
LAUGH
HOW RELAXED!
SORRY FOR BEING LATE! I WAS IN THE BATHROOM!
!
SH-SHIMIZU-SAN?!
I HAD IT SECURELY BANDAGED UP SO I CAN AT LEAST WALK...
IS YOUR LEG OKAY?
.. I SEE. GO GET READY THEN
B-BUT IF YOU OVERDO IT...
SMACK
YES.

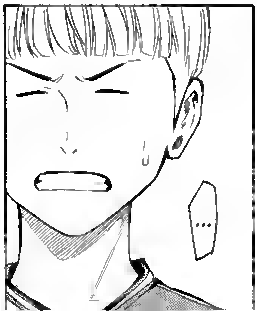
THE PRELIMINARIES WILL BEGIN NEXT MONTH.
WE CAN'T POSTPONE THIS MATCH THAT CAN LEAD TO OUR ENTRY IN THE TOURNAMENT.
IF THEY FIND OUT I CAN'T PLAY DUE TO MY INJURY, HIMURO IS SURE TO USE IT AGAINST US

!
SHI-MIZUUU


SHIMIZU-SAN...

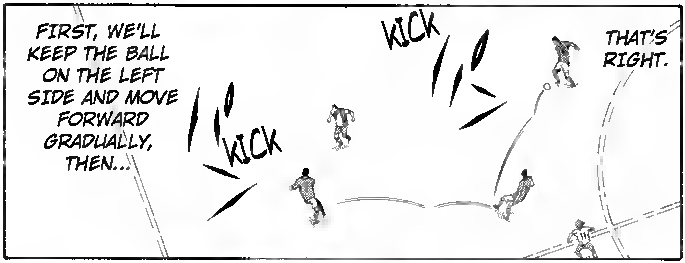

I WAS FEELING BAD FOR HURTING IN JUDO,
BUT I'M GLAD YOU'RE LOOKING WELL.

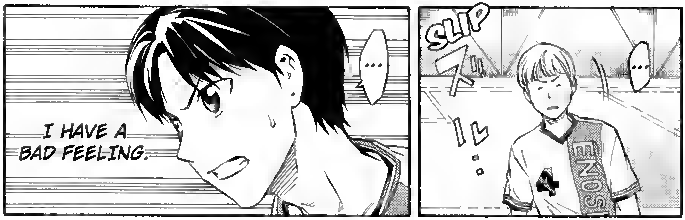
DAMN HIM!


...

WARM UP A BIT THEN START THE MATCH.
...
WELL,
LET'S BOTH PLAY FAIR.
TWEET
KICK OFF!!
WE'LL START THE FIRST 30-MINUTE HALF OF THE 60-MINUTE MATCH...
WITH ENOSHIMA HIGH SOCCER CLUB'S BALL AND...

IT'S A HASSLE, SO I'LL END THIS QUICKLY.
MATSU-OKA!
SLIDE


FIRST, WE'LL KEEP THE BALL ON THE LEFT SIDE AND MOVE FORWARD GRADUALLY, THEN...
KICK
KICK
THAT'S RIGHT.


I HAVE A BAD FEELING.
...
SLIP
...

DASH
WE NEED TO STEAL THE BALL QUICKLY.
TCH...

!!
MORIMURA!
KICK
ALL RIGHT! GO!
N-NO! THEIR TARGET IS...
DASH

SHIMIZU IS DRAWN OUT TO THE CENTER FROM THE OPPO-SITE SIDE...
D-DAMN!
HE THINKS HE CAN PASS ME EASILY...
LUCKY! I CAN GET TH...
WHACK
!!
HE MISSED THE TRAP?!

ROOOAAARRR
NO, SHIMIZU-SAN!!
RUN...
!!?
KICK
キック

SLAM
ドスン
HELL YEAH!
ONE POINT IN!!
ISN'T THAT A FOUL?
HE WAS GOING FOR THE BALL.

...!!
SHIMIZU-SAN, YOUR LEG
DASH
SHIMIZU-SAN!!
...
B-BUT...
I-IT'S FINE. DON'T CAUSE A SCENE, IWAKI.
GRUNT
WHAT?
HUH?
CHANGE WITH ME!

KAN-MORI...
SERI-OUSLY?
HUH?
KANAMORI-SAN!
...
1 STEP
I'LL TAKE THE PLACE OF NUMBER 4, SHIMIZU
I, KANAMORI TAKUMA WILL ENTER AS NUMBER 12.
!!!

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THE KNIGHT IN THE AREA

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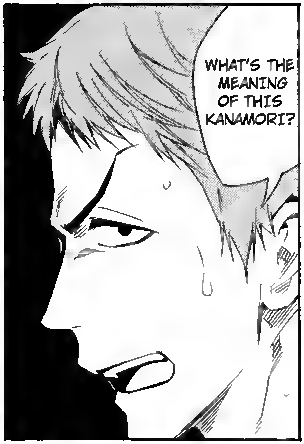
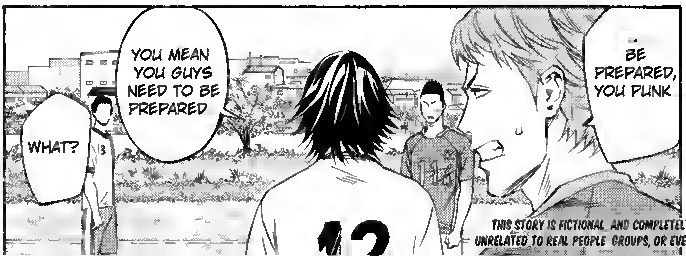
ADAPTATION BY TANIA FOKUDA





THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

AS LONG AS I'M THE CENTER BACK,
I WON'T LET YOU SCORE ANOTHER POINT.
!
YOU...

KANAMORI-SAN, I'M SO GLAD WE CAN PLAY SOCCER TOGETHER.
ONLY THIS MATCH.
HIMURO'S WAYS ARE JUST TOO NASTY, SO I FELT LIKE PUNISHING HIM A LITTLE.
THAT'S FINE AS A REASON FOR NOW.
FOR NOW?
YES.
I KNOW YOU'LL WANT TO PLAY SOCCER AGAIN!
...
WHATEVER. JUST SCORE, ALL RIGHT?
REGARD-LESS OF THE DEFENSE IF WE CAN'T SCORE, WE CAN'T WIN.
...
YES!

IT'S EXCITING!
HE QUIT THE YOUTH TEAM BEFORE BECOMING A THIRD YEAR, RIGHT? IS HE IN SHAPE?
HUH?
ENOSI
12

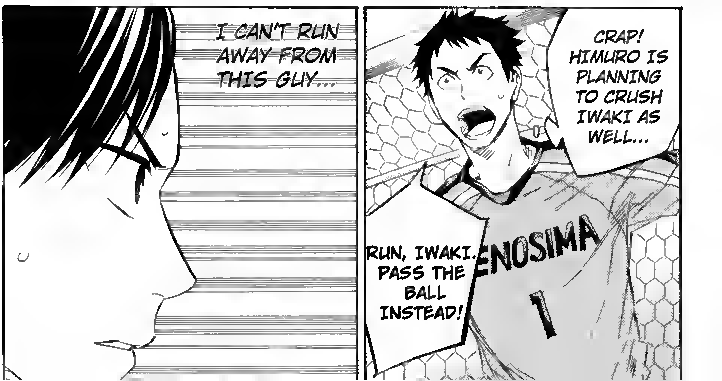
IS HE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT?
HUH?

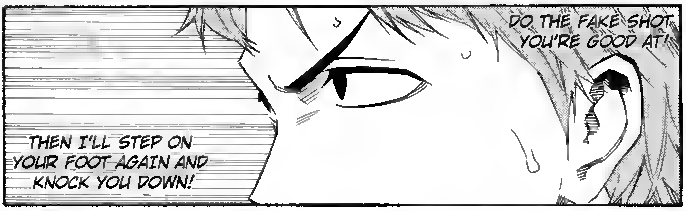
...
WHICH MEANS IF WE WIN THIS MATCH, HE CAN ENTER THE PRELIMINARIES WITH US.
YOUTH PLAYERS AREN'T ALLOWED TO PLAY IN OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL MATCHES FOR HALF A YEAR.
BUT HE CAN MAKE IT FOR THE SECOND PLAYER SELECTION!

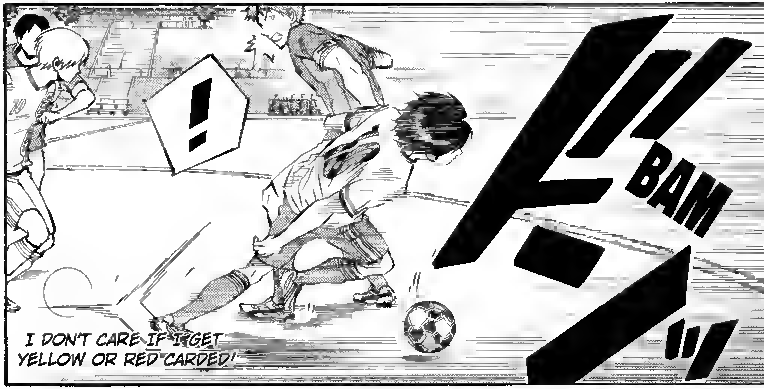
ピー!!!
TWEEEET!
ALL RIGHT, LET'S WIN THIS!
LET'S BRING THIS TO A TIE FIRST!

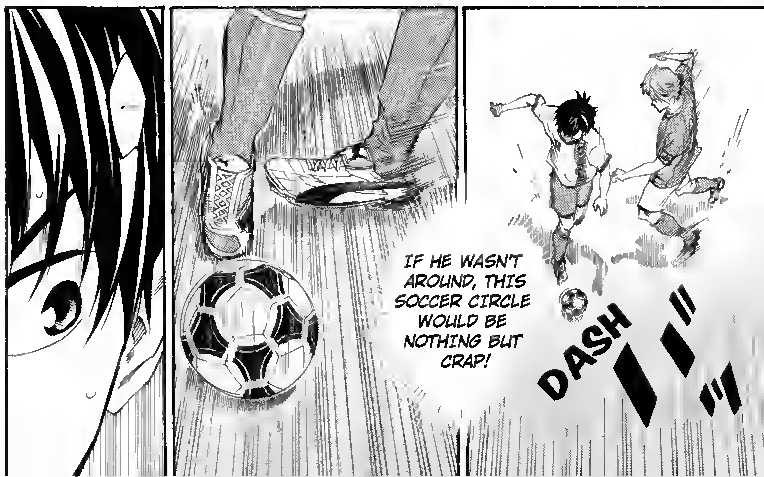
OH TEPPEI...

FINE, KANAMORI. I'LL CRUSH IWAKI BEFORE YOUR EYES.
THEN YOU CAN GO FOCUS ON YOUR STUDIES, RIGHT?
DASH
BRING IT ON!
STEP


I CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM THIS GUY...
CRAP! HIMURO IS PLANNING TO CRUSH IWAKI AS WELL...
RUN, IWAKI. PASS THE BALL INSTEAD!
ENOSIMA
1


DO THE FAKE SHOT YOU'RE GOOD AT!
THEN I'LL STEP ON YOUR FOOT AGAIN AND KNOCK YOU DOWN!


!
BAM
I DON'T CARE IF I GET YELLOW OR RED CARDED!


IF HE WASN'T AROUND, THIS SOCCER CIRCLE WOULD BE NOTHING BUT CRAP!
DASH

UGH!
YOU!
GRAB
I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU!
THUMP
RIP
SPIN
TAKE THIS!! THIS IS...

ALL RIGHT! HE DID IT!
...
THIS IS OUR CHANCE!
CRASH
YOU WON'T GET BY!
GAH!!
WHAM
PAY BACK FOR SHIMIZU-SAN!!

HUH?
SO QUICK!
BAM
STORM THROUGH, TOKITOU!!

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ADAPTATION BY TAMA FUKUDA

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THE KNIGHT IN THE AREA

THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

HEH.
LOOKS LIKE MY JOB HERE IS DONE.
DASH
DASH
!!
I'M LEAVING THE REST TO YOU, IWAKI!
THUMP
NICE PASS, TOKITOU!

JOLT
!!
...

...!
YOU DAMNED FIRST YEAR!!
FIRST YEAR THIRD YEAR
DASH
WHAT DOES THAT MATTER...
10
1

THUMP
10
4
6

UGH!
IN THE MIDDLE OF A MATCH?
SENPAI? CLIPPER CLASSMEN
CLAP
TEPPEI!
NICE GOAL!!
YEAH! NOW WE'RE TIED!
10
DAMN HIM!
HE PURPOSELY AIMED FOR MY FACE, DIDN'T HE?
ARE YOU OKAY HIMURO?
NOT A PROBLEM. MORE LIKE...

GOT IT!
YOSHIMURA, MIZUTA, AND ENDOU, YOU'LL MARK IWAKI.
ASIDE FROM HIM, THE REST ARE USELESS. AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T DRIBBLE, THEY CAN'T SCORE A POINT!
LEAVE IT TO US!
10
THE TABLES WILL TURN REALLY QUICKLY!
WE'LL CRAM IN THREE OR FOUR MORE POINTS.

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YES SERVICES LLC/ SKY JAPAN INC.
ADAPTATION BY TAMA FUKUDA

THUNK

COME ON!

WITH DIRECTOR KONDOU AS THEIR COACH,

THE SC'S SOCCER ABILITIES ARE HIGH AND STRONG AS WELL.

I GOT THIS!

AND NOW, OUR SECOND POINT!

FUMP

BUT...

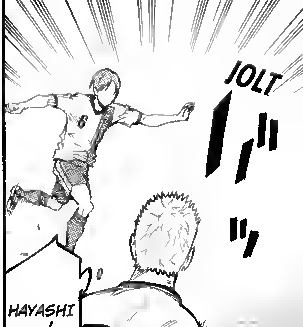
THE KNIGHT IN THE AREA

- THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE KANAMORI-SAN,
12
10
WHO WAS A REGULAR IN THE LIBERTA YOKOHAMA YOUTH TEAM!

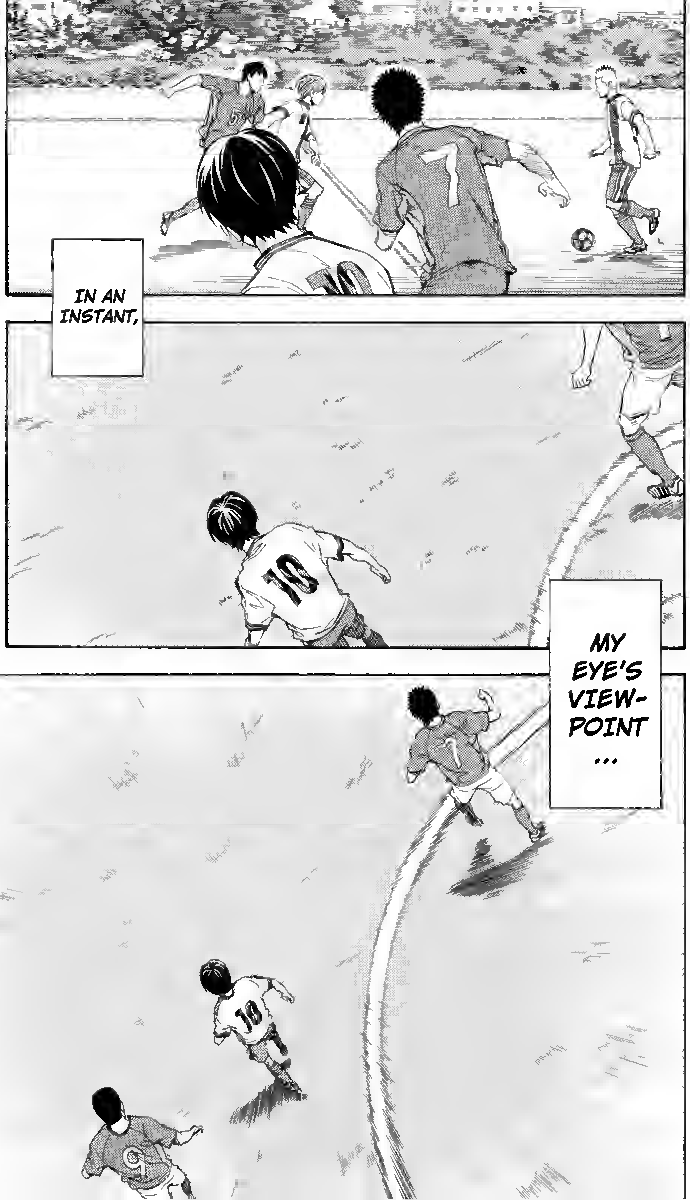
WOW!
UGH...
THAT'S AMAZING HOW HE MATCHES UP TO THAT HIMURO...
PUT THREE PEOPLE ON MARK FOR IWAKI!
JUST DON'T LET HIM TAKE THE BALL NO MATTER WHAT!
...
ENOSHIMA
SHOW ME WHAT YOU GOT, IWAKI.
...
IS THAT IT FOR IWAKI?

DASH
HEY HEY HEY!
6
5
!


JOLT
HAYASHI ...!
6

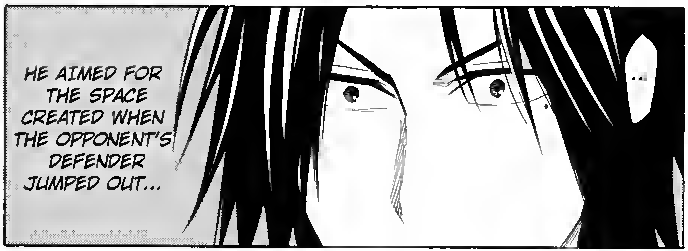
IT WAS THAT MOMENT.

SOME SORT OF SWITCH WENT OFF INSIDE ME.


IN AN INSTANT,
MY EYE'S VIEW-POINT ...

RIGHT THERE!!
DASH
10
!!
SOARED INTO THE HEAVENS LIKE THAT OF A BIRD.

WHAT?!
IWAKI!
1-1
THUMP


HE AIMED FOR THE SPACE CREATED WHEN THE OPPONENT'S DEFENDER JUMPED OUT...

SUR-ROUND HIM!
DON'T LET IWAKI DRIBBLE!!

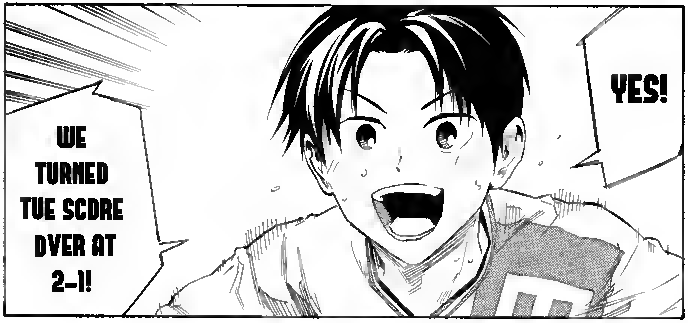
DAMN IT!

THAT WAS
LIKE SEEING THE PITCH FROM A BIRD'S EYE VIEW...
URYU ISN'T MARKED!

KICK

THIS BIRD'S EYE VISION, SUDDENLY BLESSED UPON ME BY THE HEAVENS,
ALLOWED ME...

ALL RIGHT!!
9


YES!
WE TURNED TUE SCORE OVER AT 2-1!

...
IWAKI DID IT...

TO LEAD MY SOCCER SKILLS TO THE NEXT STAGE
ENOSHIMA
11
10
9
AS A "FORCE" TO RECKON WITH ...

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ADAPTATION BY TANIA FUKUDA

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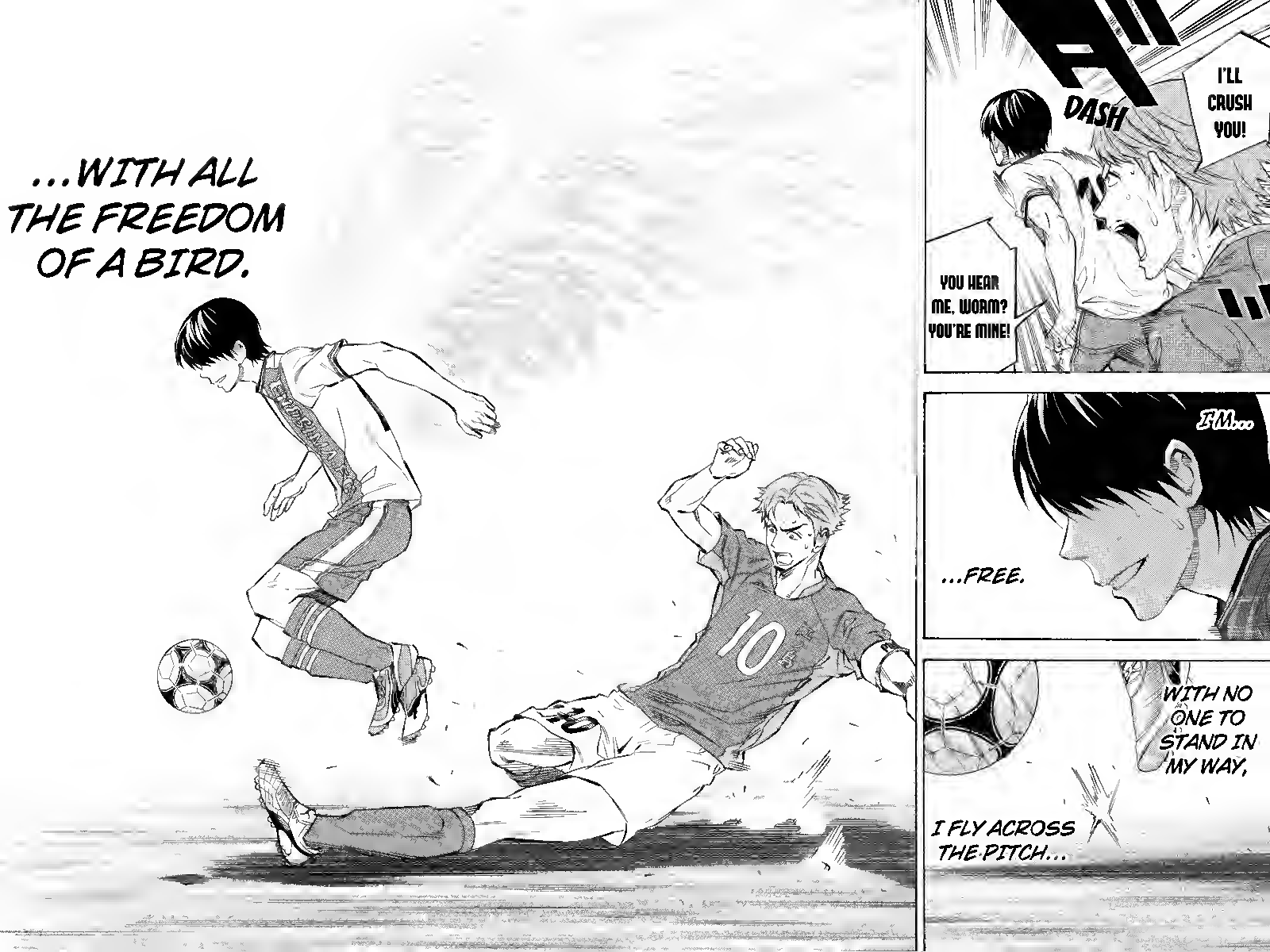
HIMURO! EYES ON THE BALL!
!?
TCH!
5
WHOO
SON OF A-
THUNK
5
NAKAMURA!? THAT BENCH WARMER MADE A BREAK!?
STOP HIM, ENDOU!

IT'S IWAKI!

AWE-SOME!
WHEN DID HE SHAKE OFF HIS MARKERS?
DAMN IT!
GET ON HIM!
DID HE SEE THIS COMING?
THE WAY IWAKI'S BEEN PLAYING FOR A WHILE...

IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE'S GOT THE MOVEMENTS OF ALL TWENTY-TWO PLAYERS ON A SCREEN IN HIS HEAD...
...AND PREDICTING THE NEXT PLAY THAT'S GONNA HAPPEN.
10
THERE AREN'T EVEN MANY PROS WHO CAN DO THAT.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN HE'S SOMETHING ELSE.
I CAN SEE IT.
I CAN SEE EVERY CORNER OF THE PITCH.
...

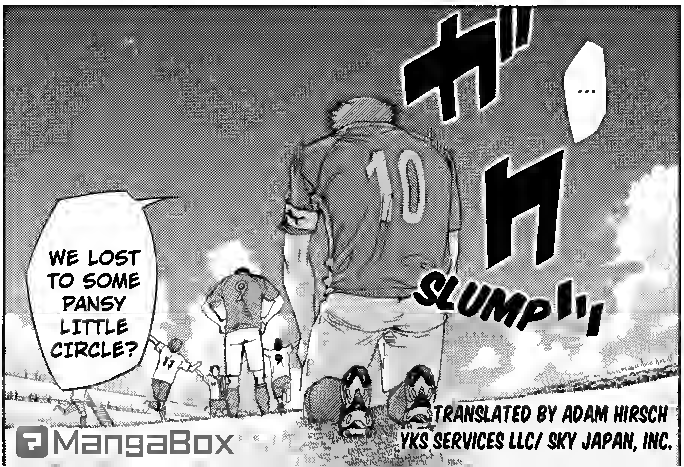

...WITH ALL THE FREEDOM OF A BIRD.
DASH
I'LL CRUSH YOU!
YOU HEAR ME, WORM? YOU'RE MINE!
I'M...
...FREE.
WITH NO ONE TO STAND IN MY WAY,
I FLY ACROSS THE PITCH...

PUNT
I MIGHT BE WITNESSING...
...THE BIRTH OF A PRODIGY.
URYU! BACK-PASS! OVER HERE!
!
TEPPEI!
DUNK

CRUSH HIM!
POW
WHAT?!
?!!
CHOO

AW' RIGHT!
....
THAT'S 3-1!
WSHH
AN... OVERLAP?
WHEN THE HELL...
SKRSH
KANA-MORI-SAN!
WHOOM
OOOOOOH!!!

SLAP



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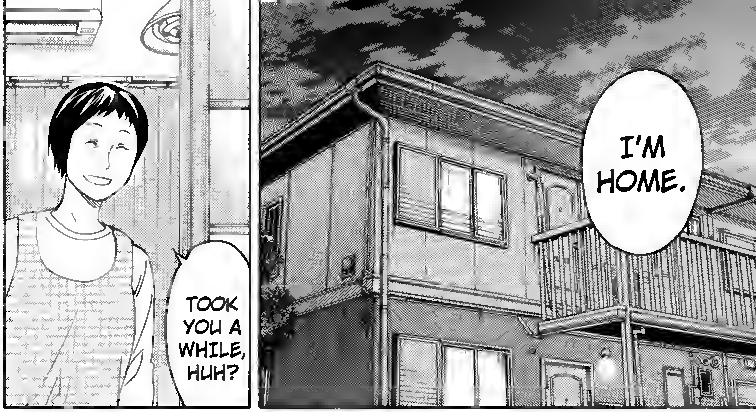
COACH KONDOU!
THAT'S THE DEAL, RIGHT?
...
YEAH.
YOUR CIRCLE GETS THE RIGHT TO REPRESENT THE SCHOOL AT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS.
...
N—NO WAY...
SON OF A
PA
TUNK
BIIITCH!

HIMU-RO.
YES?
THUMP
RRGH!
...
GET THE BALL.
NO, YOU GO!
YOU KICKED IT, RIGHT?
!
HEY, FIRST YEARS! ONE OF YOU GO GET THE BALL!
...
...

DASH
TCH.
ALL RIGHT, GUYS! LET'S HEAD BACK, TOO!
TIME FOR A MEET-ING...
YES, SIR!
ROGER!
HEAD BACK TO THE ROOM. TIME FOR A CLUB MEETING.
おお
YEAHHH!
...
...AND A PARTY TO CELE-BRATE!

I WANT TO MAKE A NEW TRAINING REGIMIN STARTING TOMORROW!
GIVE ME A HAND, WILL YA?
KANA-MORI-SAN! LET'S GO!
NAH, I'M...
SURE.
...
YOU GOT IT, COACH IWAKI.

DON'T BE TOO HARD ON US, OKAY?
F-FIGURES, HUH?
WE WON'T MAKE IT PAST THE PRELIM-INARIES UNLESS WE UP OUR PRACTICE TIME ALL RIGHT?
THE CHAMPI-ONSHIPS ARE ON A WHOLE OTHER LEVEL
10
12


I'M HOME.
TOOK YOU A WHILE, HUH?

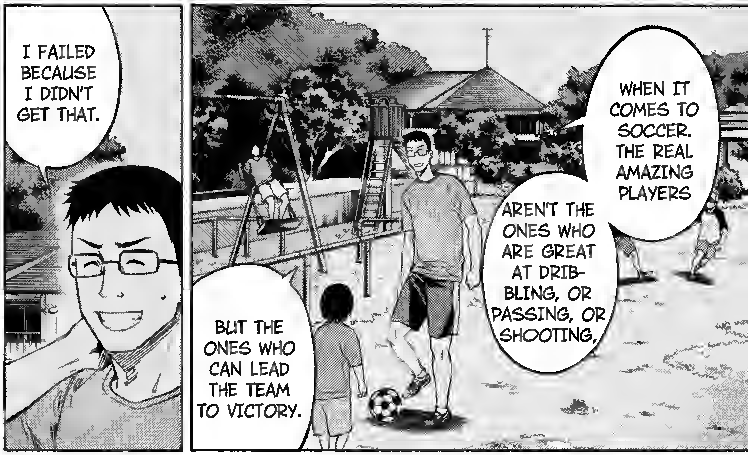
...
WERE YOU PLAYING SOCCER?
WHA

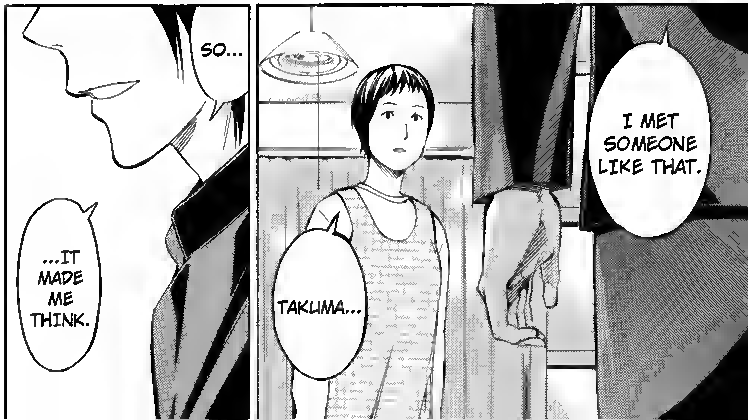
AH...
YEAH.
I HAD SOME-THIN' TO DO.

I CAN TELL.
YOU SMELL LIKE SWEAT.

...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY, THEN AIM FOR THE PROS.
THAT WAS YOUR DREAM, RIGHT?
...
MOM, I...
...
YEAH.
THANKS MOM.
OH, BOY. THE LAUNDRY'S GOING TO GET CRAZY AGAIN, STARTING TOMORROW
HEY, MOM...
WHAT IS IT?

WHEN I WAS LITTLE,
DAD ONCE TOLD ME WHILE HE WAS TEACHING ME HOW TO PLAY...


WHEN IT COMES TO SOCCER. THE REAL AMAZING PLAYERS
AREN'T THE ONES WHO ARE GREAT AT DRIB-BLING, OR PASSING, OR SHOOTING,
BUT THE ONES WHO CAN LEAD THE TEAM TO VICTORY.
I FAILED BECAUSE I DIDN'T GET THAT.


I MET SOMEONE LIKE THAT.
TAKUMA...
SO...
...IT MADE ME THINK.

IF I KEEP PLAYING WITH HIM...
...I FEEL LIKE I'LL BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING EVEN MORE AMAZING.
IF THAT HAP-PENS...
...I THINK I'LL HAVE MORE FUN WITH SOCCER!

THE KNIGHT IN THE AREA: EARLY DAYS
-THE END-